

INFORMATION REPORT

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Bulgaria

CD NO.

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SUBJECT Blagoevgrad Departmental Prison TELLOFAX 14

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. The Blagoevgrad Departmental Prison is located on the eastern side of the city adjacent to the Bistritsa River.
2. The prison is an old building with five prison rooms which can house a total of 250 prisoners. Two of the prison rooms are large enough for 80 prisoners each; the other three have space for 30 prisoners each. There are several other rooms in the prison which are used for various purposes.
3. No discrimination is made between political and criminal prisoners; the only difference is that criminal prisoners may serve their entire sentences in this prison, whereas political prisoners are removed to other prisons in the interior of the country after a short period.
4. The prison regime is extremely hard on those prisoners who must stay inside. There is a small group of trustees, however, who are allowed to go outside and work in the fields. There are also ten trustees who work as clerks in the warden's office. Those prisoners who are not allowed outside are taken into the courtyard three times daily for five minutes of exercise. The exercise must be taken by the prisoners while en route from formation to the latrines or the washroom.
5. The prisoners' food consists mainly of beans, spinach, cabbage, tomatoes, and nettles. Very little fat is used in the cooking. Each man is allowed 250 grams of bread daily.
6. The prison authorities total eight persons, one of whom is the warden, one the director, and six the prison guards.
7. The outer defense of the prison consists of ten soldiers who belong to a special company subordinate to the Ministry of Interior, Division of Prison Defenses. These men wear military uniforms with red bands around their caps and red shoulder tabs, and are armed with sub-machine guns and pistols. They maintain one permanent post at the main gate and two moving patrols of one man each continuously circling the outside of the prison. The guards are changed each week, but informant does not know where the company to which they belong is quartered.
8. There are no workshops in the prison itself, but the prison maintains three farms as follows:

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- a. The Strumeshki Chiflik Farm, located seven kilometers south of the city on the Struma River, is devoted almost exclusively to truck farming and employs 50 prisoners. These men do not live in the main prison but reside in brick barracks. One prison guard lives with them.
 - b. A tobacco farm comprising 94 deceres is located 30 meters east of the Strumeshki Chiflik railroad stop. Most of the 40 men employed here are short-term prisoners; there is only one guard who resides with the prisoners in a brick barracks on the farm.
 - c. A fruit farm is located three kilometers south of the Strumeshki Chiflik railroad stop and employs between 20 and 26 prisoners. This farm has all types of fruit trees and an apiary. The prisoners live in brick barracks without guards; only two trustees supervise their labor.
9. The prison also maintains a brick yard on the south side of town, adjacent to the military barracks, where 16 prisoners are employed making bricks during the summer only.
 10. All the produce of the three farms, plus the production of the brick factory, is sold on the local market. The money derived from these sales is taken by the cashier of the prison for unknown purposes.

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